



20

Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the two months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the September/October is Aug. 1. Please send submissions to write-us@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.

About Visual Artists
compiled by Kristi
Niemeyer



"Urban Awakening" by
Karen Goulet

ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

Kevin Red Star: Signature Artist

Through July at the Depot Gallery in Red Lodge, and a featured artist during Art in the Beartooths, July 12

Artist's website: kevinredstar.com

Kevin Red Star shows recent works in the main gallery, and shares the signature-artist spot with noted emerging artist, Susan Spero, and sculptor David McMassters at the 41st annual Art in the Beartooths, sponsored by the Carbon County Arts Guild. Along with 30 other artists, Red Star will paint live, in quick-draw fashion, and talk informally with patrons during this day-long event.

Red Star was born on the Crow Reservation in Lodge Grass. He was raised in a family that valued art and culture and where he developed an early love of drawing and music. This exposure and encouragement sustained him during his years in grade school when Crow students were denied association with their language and cultural heritage.

Later, he was one of 150 students chosen to attend the newly established Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was here he was encouraged to explore his history and culture through modern art. After graduation, Red Star attended the San Francisco Art Institute where he was exposed to the avant-garde and political and social concerns of post-modern art.

Since embarking on his professional artistic journey, Red Star is considered a visual historian and ambassador for his native Crow culture.

Red Star recently concluded a half-century celebration of his work as an artist with "Art of the Native American: Kevin Red Star and His Friends," at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art in Kentucky. The exhibit showcased the contributions of contemporary Native Americans to our country's cultural history from the last decades of the 20th century to the present.

To continue his 50-year commemoration, Red Star is premiering his biography, written by Daniel Gibson with photographs by Kitty Leaken, in hardcover format, at Art in the Beartooths.



"Dreams of Winter Buffalo" by
Kevin Red Star

Patti Henry, "Summer Umbrellas"

Through July at Main Stope Gallery in Butte, with a reception 5-9 p.m. July 4 during the Art Walk



"Charlie" by Patti Henry

Patti Henry, a former professional scene designer and painter, is relishing the vivid palette and fluid nature afforded by watercolors. The Butte artist says her most recent works come "not only from gardening, but also from an admiration of, and fascination with, the artist David Hockney, who I discovered was also a scenic designer."

Henry, a Pennsylvania native, first moved to Montana in the 1970s to attend graduate school at The University of Montana in theatre design. After teaching at universities in Michigan, Utah, Florida and Washington, she returned to UM, first as a sabbatical replacement, and then teaching scene design, painting and drafting from 1994-2001.

She also worked as a professional scenic designer and painter in Seattle, including stints with the Seattle Children's Theatre, the Bathhouse Theatre, Pioneer Square, The Group and Pacific Northwest Ballet, and at the Santa Fe Opera, Milwaukee Rep and Honolulu Theatre for Youth.

Henry began painting watercolors in the early 1970s. "Generally, working in scene design, your palette can be limited and dreary," she says. "Precision is necessary however, and initially in my painting, I tended to focus on minute detail and patterns."

Her strengths as a designer – "painterly-ness and an unusual perspective of the subject matter" – carry over into her paintings, which also reflect her affinity for Hockney's "brilliant palette and his skewed sense of perspective."

Flowers and umbrellas – and flowers serving as umbrellas – keep company in her summer exhibit at Main Stope.

Featured Artist: Karen Goulet

Through Oct. 24 at Hangin' Art Gallery in Arlee, with a reception 2-4 p.m. July 5

Artist, poet and educator Karen Goulet, director of the Art Department at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, shares paper weavings that evoke basket forms and techniques as part of the Killdeer Artisans' Guild's summer show. She'll give a talk during the reception.

The artist began making woven paper shapes after taking a class in traditional split-ash basket making. She developed a strong connection to the process but, not having easy access to the black ash used in the baskets, she looked to different materials to weave. What she had readily available were piles of prints she had accumulated over the years as a printmaker.

Goulet is an enrolled member of the White Earth Ojibwe Nation. She is also from Métis, Saami, and Finnish people. She comes from a family of environmentalists and educators, and is committed to bringing visibility and voice to marginalized realities.

Goulet received her bachelor of fine arts from Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, where she worked with Joe Feddersen and Gail Tremblay, who deeply influenced her decision to be an artist. She received her master of fine arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota in Duluth. She taught at the White Earth Tribal and Community College before coming to Montana.

As she says, "weaving and quilting are my way of talking about culture, weaving past and present together in a way that I aspire to keep stories new. In every piece of art I make is my admiration for the people I am from and the people I know who 'make' with their hands."

Her work has been featured in over 60 national and international exhibitions, including a recent show at the Missoula Art Museum titled "Debwe."

Sandra Dal Poggetto: "Meditations on the Field"

July 17-Sept. 27 at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at The University of Montana

Artist's website: www.sandradalpoggetto.com

Helena-based artist Sandra Dal Poggetto uses an abstract language and fragments of the western landscape – hide, feathers, wood and wire – to create evocative paintings and drawings in this solo exhibition.

Pulitzer-Prize winning author/critic Mark Stevens, a longtime champion of the artist's work, describes her paintings as "truthful reflection[s] of our culture's complex relations to the landscape of the West."

In addition to displaying her artwork, Dal Poggetto will select objects from the museum's Permanent Collection to illustrate different philosophical and aesthetic understandings of the human relationship to the natural world.

"This novel approach to MMAC programming affords an uncommon opportunity to see the Permanent Collection through the eyes of a working artist," writes museum director Barbara Koosstra. "... As she considers the landscape and our relationship to it, she pulls in sometimes harmonious, sometimes dissimilar threads that weave together myriad points of view into a fascinating tapestry."

Dal Poggetto earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis with honors in Art Studio, and received a master's in painting and drawing from San Francisco State University.

Her extensive exhibition record includes solo shows at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Oregon State University in Corvallis, the Holter Museum of Art in Helena, the University of California at Davis, and Dana Reich Gallery and Peter Koch Printers, both in San Francisco.

Her essays on the relationship between art and landscape have been published in academic and literary journals and anthologized in the Canadian academic journal, *The Structurist*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Heart Shots: Women Write about Hunting* and *The New Montana Story: An Anthology*.



"American Fork #9" by Sandra Dal Poggetto

Traci Jo Isaly, "Where the Wild Things Grow: Figure-a-tive Tales from the Front Line"

Through July at 4 Ravens Gallery in Missoula

Artist's website: www.traciisaly.com

Bozeman sculptor Traci Jo Isaly says she has "a wildish need to communicate through artistic expression. Finding ways to acknowledge, pursue, and articulate the creative force that drives me, has been a lifelong journey."

Wyoming born and raised, Isaly has lived intimately with the natural world since childhood, exploring and roaming the vast landscape of the Wind River Valley, the Wind River Mountains and the Absaroka Range. "Because of my seemingly endless curiosity about places, human cultures and their interconnection with the natural environs, space, time and creative expression, I found a uniquely artistic medium that incorporates the beauty of nature into a human anthropological theme," she writes.



"Warrior Pose" by Traci Jo Isaly

Her figurative sculptures each begin with a wire armature and "a bundle of grass," which represents an organic foundation. Handspun and naturally dyed wool, a thin cotton batting and finally, a cotton or silk costume top her creations.

She also incorporates found objects or specimens from nature – an abandoned nest, bison bone, gopher skull or seashell, for example, might be woven into the figure. Finally, she adds a pouch or container, filled with organic corn to represent reciprocity, "giving back what is taken to strike a balance."

Isaly has lived and pursued her art in Montana for over three decades. She creates "magical pieces that evoke the mystical, organic, and mysterious," says fellow artist Bruce Rinnert of McLeod. "Her use of natural elements and materials convey the sensual as well as the soothing."